



ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM)

TALKING POINTS

Last Updated March 4, 2009

1. IDEA (2004 Reauthorization) requires LEAs to ensure that all students with IEPs who require AIM receive these materials in a timely manner. Students with disabilities on Section 504 Plans are covered under the Chafee Amendment.
2. AIM refers to textbooks, core related instructional materials, and all other printed materials that students (K-12) would use in their classrooms.
3. Timely manner is defined in the Rules of Special Education as “at the same time as non-disabled peers receive their textbooks and core related instructional materials.”
4. AIM can be rendered in four Specialized Formats: Braille, Large Print, Audio, and Digital Text.
5. IDEA also requires that LEAs who purchase textbooks and core related instructional materials after July 19, 2006 must require publishers/vendors in their purchasing agreements to send a National Instructional Materials Accessible Standards (NIMAS) Conformant Fileset of the textbook(s) to the National Instructional Materials Accessible Center NIMAC). The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has taken the position that every textbook and related core materials sold by K-12 publishers (i.e., works still “in print” as opposed to “out of print”) after July 19, 2006 is subject to a request for conversion to NIMAS filesets and subsequent submission to the NIMAC. Sample language is available at the Iowa Department of Education. Contact Steve Maurer
6. Eligible students who have a print disability and require AIM:
 - Those who qualify under the Copyright Act as Amended (Blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, or have a reading disability based upon an organic dysfunction) – How to Obtain AIM Guidance available from the Iowa Department of Education. Contact Steve Maurer.
 - Those who don't qualify under the Copyright Act as Amended (whose print disability still requires the use of AIM in order for them to progress in the general education curriculum) – How to Obtain AIM Guidance is being developed. Contact Steve Maurer.